



MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

*Advocating for hospitals and the patients they serve.*

**TO:** Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee  
**FROM:** Chris Mitchell, Manager, Government Relations  
**DATE:** November 4, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 605 – Circulating Nurse in Operating Room  
**MHA Position: NEUTRAL**

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The Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) is neutral on Senate Bill (SB) 605, which would require hospitals to meet the requirements of the conditions of participation as they apply to registered professional nurses performing circulating duties in the operating room and as provided in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

**The MHA supports the use of a Registered Nurse (RN) Circulator in the operating room, but feels that imposing a mandate to do so is unnecessary. Currently, all 144 non-profit community hospitals utilize a RN Circulating Nurse in the operating room during surgery. This has been a long-standing best practice in all Michigan Hospitals to promote patient safety.** In addition, during the fall of 2007, the Michigan Health & Hospital Association Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality launched MHA Keystone: Surgery in partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Quality and Safety Research Group. This collaborative includes more than 100 Michigan hospitals are voluntarily participating to improve perioperative patient safety. Along with recommending the use with a RN Circulating Nurse during surgery, the MHA Keystone: Surgery initiative focus on several different methods to eliminate surgical-site infections along with other Serious Adverse Events.

While the MHA believes the proposed legislation is unnecessary, SB 605 as substituted represents a compromise between Michigan hospitals and the Michigan Chapter of the Association of periOperative Nurses (AORN) to align state law with the U.S. Federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) conditions of participation as well as recognize the critical role that the RN Circulating Nurses perform in the Operating Room under Michigan Law.

Please contact Chris Mitchell ([cmitchell@mha.org](mailto:cmitchell@mha.org)) at (517) 703-8622 at the MHA if you have further questions on this issue.

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